THE

Weekly Amusement

From Saturday January 5th 1764
To Saturday Decem. 28. 1765.

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An Historical Detail of the Publick Transactions & Occurrences of the Year 1765.

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London.

The PREFACE.

We return our Thanks to the Publick for the Encouragement it has hitherto given us, and ſhall continue our utmoſt endeavours to deſerve it.

INDEX

TO THE

WEEKLY AMUSEMENT;

From Saturday, January 5, to Saturday, December 28, 1765.

A.

Abouzaid, the ſon of Morad, his hiſtory —— 162

Abbas, the hermit, his hiſtory, 279, 291

Addreſs of the city of London vindicated —— — 631

Adrianople, account of that city 187

Advantage of knowing ourſelves 366

Adverſity, its good effects 453

Advertiſement, from White-hall 774

Advice of a wife and good man ſhould not be deſpiſed — 362

Age, the preſent equal in knowledge and virtue to any former one, 233. humorous letter on it, 441.

Aged perſons, propoſals for an aſylum for —— 184

Aix la Chapelle, account of an event that happened there —— 262

Alexander the Great, parallel between him and an highwayman 345

All or nothing, a moral tale, 18, 36, 52, 66.

Algerines, their habits deſcribed 254

Andrews, biſhop, anecdote of him 637

Anemones, on the culture of 42

Angling, the number of people who are ſubſiſted by it —— 652

Animal, maternal tenderneſs of one, 264, account of an uncommon one, 437. ſeveral remarkable ones deſcribed, 654.

Animalcule, account of an extraordinary one — —— 699

Antipaxos, account of the grotto of, 868

Anxiety univerſal — 673

Appenine, mountains deſcribed 242

Apple trees, a method of curing luxuriant ones —— 574

Arable land, the beſt method of manuring it — — 652

Arminians, character of that ſect 151

Aſem, the man-hater, his ſtory 513

Attachment of Mr. *Almon*, arguments upon it. —— 407

B.

BArley, how to know when it is fit to mow —— — 110

Belgrade village, deſcribed 213

Biography, the advantages and pleaſure of it. —— — 764

Bigotry, arguments againſt it 473

Biſhops, their ſervile attachment to the Court —— — 637

Black Box, a ſtory — 167

Bloſſoms and young fruit, how to preſerve from froſts —— 90

Books, an extraordinary liſt of new ones 652

Bolognian ſtone, account of it 265

Bolognian phoſphorus, how diſcovered 275

Bon Ton, attempt to explain it 206

Bounty on corn, ſhould be limited 185

Bribery, Philip king of Macedon's opinion of it —— 23

Bugs and Worms in wood, a preparation for deſtroying them — 571

Byron, lord, narrative of the duel between him and Mr. Chaworth 387

C.

CAncer, ſcorbutic, remarkable cure of one —— 254

Cantab. letter from a young one in town to his chum at Cambridge 487

Camphire, the extraordinary efficacy of it in maniacal diſorders — 877

Carazan, his ſtory —— 321

Carrots, benefit of ſowing them for the winter food of cattle — 509

Card-playing, thoughts on it 203

Catacombs of Naples, account of 61

Caterpillars, a method for deſtroying them 270

Catharine, Empreſs of Ruſſia, her hiſtory 676

Cement, for joining alabaſter, marble, &c. —— — 398

Charlemount, earl of, his generous direction about letting his eſtates 184

Charles II. humorous anecdote of him 157

Chearfulneſs of temper recommended, 226. the advantages of it, 689.

Characters, on the propenſity to aſſume falſe ones —— 145

Cheſterfield, earl of, a letter from him to his ſon, 696. a ſaying of his about the biſhops, 637.

Chineſe

Chineſe gardens deſcribed 700
Chineſe matron, ſtory of — 529
Chineſe anecdote —— 398
Chineſe, letters from one in England to his friend in China, 199, 217, 375, 505, 662, 725.
Chineſe emperor, inſtructive ceremony at his coronation ——— 286
Chineſe, good natured action of one, 702
China, of the begging prieſts there, 126
Chimnies, an eaſy method of building ſuch as will not ſmoak — 638
Choice, account of the comedy ſo called 247
Chriſtian religion, on the nature of it, 547, 563, 580
Chriſtian ſcheme, its conſiſtency, 19, 35, 51.
Churchill, lord, his letter to K. James II. at the revolution ——— 877
Clodio, his diſtreſs — 186
Clover on barley, method of ſowing it 878
Colonies, American, the impropriety of ſome reſtrictions laid on their trade, 204. neceſſity of taking them off, 488.
Commiſſary, account of Mr. Foote's piece ſo called ——— 424
Commons, houſe of, their degeneracy, 396. unjuſt extenſion of their power, 629
Conde, prince of, his death bed advice to his ſon ——— 382
Continental connections, remarks on 22
Converſation, rules for it 625
Convulſion fits, a receipt for 106
Coventry act, original of it 638
Corruption, the danger the conſtitution is in from it ——— 670
Coral, artificial, how to make it 156
Court favourite, miſerable end of one 23
Cows, an excellent paſture for them 574
Cyder-Tax, obſervations on its tendency — — — 91

D.

Dalures, account of that people 663
Deluge, a proof of it 245
Derby, earl of, an anecdote of him 60
Dialogue, in the ſhades, between K. G. II. and the late Duke of D——re 741
Divine Providence, on the juſtice of it 171, 179, 194, 214, 230
Dreſs, an impropriety in it 301
Duelling, expoſed in a dialogue 259
Dunkirk, on the behaviour of the French there, 183. the importance of having its fortifications demoliſhed, 668.
Dutch inn-keepers, ſingular charge made by ſome —— — 270

E.

Elizabeth, princeſs, letter from her to K. Edward VI. —— 199
Elephants, manner of riding on them 110. ſagacity of one, 238.
England, by what means the people of it may be enſlaved — 365
Engliſh, contempt in which they are held by the French ——— 485
Engliſh, election, deſcribed, in a letter from a Chineſe ——— 505
Engliſh, merchant, extraordinary adventure of one — — 25
Engliſh officer, adventure of one in America — —— 193
Engliſh ſoldiers, humorous letter from a Perſian on their hardſhips 343
Engliſh ladies, letter concerning their diverſions ——— 356
Engliſhmen, their character riſes or falls according to the adminiſtration, 164
Engroſſing and foreſtalling arrived to a great height — — 185
Envy and Intereſt, their influence compared —— — 258
Excellence, natural, leſs deſireable than virtue — — 769
Exciſe laws, their alarming tendency 91
Exportation of proviſions, too much practiſed by Engliſh merchants 312

F.

Fabius, Indian, the ſeverities they inflict upon themſelves — 238
Fallow grounds, method of imploying them to advantage —— 478
Falſehood, the miſchiefs of it 498
Family medicine —— 281
Farneſe, cardinal, anecdote of 365
Favourite, his abſolute ſway, 489. his extravagant purchaſes and expences, 633. his character, 634.
Female patriotiſm in England 323
Flavilla, the fatal effects of faſhionable levities exemplified in her ſtory, 317, 327, 339.
Foſſil ſhells, how they come to be found in mountains ——— 244
French, their manners deſcribed 442
French cookery, letter from a Perſian in London to his friend concerning it 571
Friendſhip, a definition of it 526
Fruit, young, how to preſerve from froſts 90
Fruit-trees, of tranſplanting them in ſummer — — — 221
Freedom, on the uſe of that word in England — — — 876
Friend, a letter to one on his repining at his ſituat on in life — 713
Friendſhip, the trial of it, a moral tale, 717, 723, 739, 763, 776, 787, 802.
Friendſhip, a conformity of inclinations neceſſary to it ——— 801
Future ſtate, the moral evidence of it 363, 370

G.

Generosity, reflections on it 299
Genoa, Lady M—y W—y M—e's account of — — 107
Gospel, objections against it, and its evidences answered, 75, 83, 98, 114, 139, 459, 467, 483.
Government, marks of a moral and judicial one in the world 281, 308
Gout, an alleviating application in it 375
Granville, Mr. Geo. letter from him to the earl of Bath — 249
Grass, account of a new one sent from Virginia — — 573
Grease in horses heels, remedy for, 446
Grotto of Antiparos, account of 868
Ground, of the improvement of it by different grasses — 526
Guise, duke of, remarkable anecdote of him — — 22
Gustavus Adolphus, anecdotes of him 355

H.

Habeas Corpus, on that act 155
Habits, their power 114
Happiness, variety necessary to it, 866, a young prince's search after it, an eastern story, 76, 87, 102, 121, 151, 170.
Hartshorn, spirit of, caution in regard to it — — 74
Hat trade, reasons of the decline of it 236
Hay, a cheap method of making it, 411. of preventing it from being mow burnt 494
Health, Dr. Tissot's advice for its preservation — 409, 422, 435
Hemlock, the best time for gathering it 461
Hoadly, bishop, his letter concerning a mass house in Hants — 348
Hogs, of folding them on wheat 221
Holberg, baron, his extraordinary rise, 637
Holland and the *Hague*, Lady M—y W—y M—'s account of — 57
Holland, states of, remarkable effect of the plainness and frugality of some of their first members — 637
Hope and Fear, the value of life fixed by them, an eastern story — 274
Horses, a method of making them lie down in the stable — 413
Hoven cattle, how to cure 78
Human things, the uncertainty of them 721

I.

Japan rustics described — 30
Idleness, incapable of felicity, 738, the mischiefs of it, 817.
Imagination, should be brought under the dominion of reason — 82
Inclosing land, the ill consequences of it — — 342
Independence, the advantages of it, 545
Industry, the pleasure and advantages of it — — 545
Infants, method of causing them to cut their teeth easily — 606
Inn-keepers, in Holland, extraordinary charge made by them — 270
Intercourse, social, of the use of it between persons of different ages and professions — — 610
Irish provisions, arts made use of by the English dealers to prevent the importation of them producing any good effect 874
Ispahan, account of a conversation there 268
Juries, the importance of trials by, 106, 202
Justice, letter from a *Persian* concerning the administration of it in England 362

L.

Ladies of the present time, a scheme to render them famous to posterity, 167. on their long trains, 205. address to them on their wearing French silks, 381.
Lady, dialogue between a modern fine one and Mercury — — 205
Land-tax, on its inequality 101
Libels, on the doctrine of, 85, 117. political thoughts relative to them, 162.
Liberty of the press, advantages of it, 72 123
Liberty, its importance in temporals as well as in spirituals — 541
Life, the desire of it encreases with age 210
Life, rules and maxims for the conduct of, 30, 46, 62, 78, 94, 110, 158, 878.
Living, the art of doing it at the cost of others — — 593
Locke, Mr. his rules for a weekly society for improvement in knowledge 875
London, city of, its distinterested conduct 105
Lothario, the statesman, his character 631
Lovango, king of, his customs in eating 333
Love of our country, letter concerning it — — 205
Lucerne, account of an experiment of sowing it — — 344

M.

Machicora, the people of that province described — 207
Magna Charta, at large 130
Maid of the Mill, account of the opera so called — 119
Maniacal disorders, the extraordinary efficacy of camphire in them 877

Manufacturers, ought to be allowed a comfortable subsistence — 456
Manure, of recovering it by plowing 526
Marriages, instances of unhappy ones 306
Marriage act, instance of its bad tendency —— —— 453
Marriage, a letter from a young lady on the behaviour of the men after it 405
Marriage, treaty of, account of one by a Persian in London — 493
Marvell, Andrew, remarkable anecdote of him —— — 325
Maynard, Mr. his spirited behaviour in Portugal — — 43
Mesopotamian, occurrences in the travels of one — 268, 279, 291, 307
Middleton, Sir *Hugh*, an account of him 404
Military Officers in Parliament, the bad tendency of their being dependent on the crown — — 72
Ministers, wicked ones, the necessity of punishing them — 444
Ministry, on the conduct of 69
Misfortunes, the folly of anticipating them —— 481
Monitor, extracts from, 21, 41, 56, 68, 85, 117, 154, 173, 250, 867.
Monkey, remarkable story of one 219
Month's mind to a thing, original of that expression —— — 184
Moral maxims 398, 510, 686, 750
Mortality, too familiar to raise apprehensions —— 785
Mosque of Sultan Selim, described 189
Muscles poisonous, a method for destroying them —— 270

N.

Naples, account of the catacombs there 61
Nature, on the entertainment which the prospect of it yields —— 578
Neighbours, every man thinks he has some advantage over them 165
News papers, comprehensive view of letters which have appeared in them, 27, 43, 57, 71, 91, 104, 123, 168, 184, 201, 221, 236, 252, 349, 360, 377, 391, 425, 451, 471, 489, 499, 520, 534, 552, 583, 595, 614, 627, 645, 678, 692, 707, 729, 746, 760, 773, 798, 810, 828.
Newmarket, extravagance of the great there —— 283
N—we—le, duke of, character of him 632
Nobleman, *English*, what he ought to be — — 510
Nobleman, deceased, reflections and maxims of one — — 166
North Briton, extracts from, 357, 372, 395, 408, 443, 519, 532, 557, 585, 606, 635, 652, 667, 684, 695, 757, 771, 793, 813.
Northern Conjurer, his juggling tricks 237
Novels, their bad tendency 380

O.

OAts, how to judge when they are fit to cut — — 126
Obedience, on religious 715, 727
Oeconomy, extracts from Dr. Watkinson's essay on it —— 294, 341
Offices, on the abrogation of unnecessary ones — —— 148
Ormond, marquis of, anecdote of him 20

P.

PArliament, members of, ought to attend there —— — 73
Passive obedience and non-resistance, the wickedness and folly of those doctrines, 302, 332
Patience, the necessity of it 418
Paul's Church, description of the worshippers there, in a letter from a Chinese 476
Peach trees, directions concerning them, 220, for pruning them, 485.
Peas, the best way of harvesting them 158
People, should guard against every step which tends to subvert their liberties, 430
Pepper Tree, account of it 286
Persian ladies, their habits described 271
Persian poets, their habits described 271
Persian, letters from one in London to his friend at Ispahan — 343
Peruvian princess, letters from one to her lover, 427, 456, 469, 504, 524, 532, 546, 566, 590, 621, 643, 659, 675, 691, 711, 733, 756, 782.
Philosopher, character of a true one 494
Philosopher, the pretended one, a moral tale —— 177, 197, 210, 227
Philip K. of Macedon, his opinion of bribery —— — 22
Pigs, a profitable way of fattening them 109
Pitt, Mr. his impracticability 518
Plaister of Paris, account of it 549
Politeness, the necessity of cultivating it 705
Popery, causes of its increase 361
Political maxims, moral ones 414
Pontanus, the inscription on his tomb 387
Pope, argument against his infallibility 779
Popish excommunication, copy of 69

Pro-

Profeſſion, fondneſs of every man for his own —— — 66
Proſecutions, will not ſtop the clamours of the people — — 326
Proſperity and adverſity, an allegory 465
Providence, juſtified in the permiſſion of moral evil — — 513
Proviſions, cauſes of the high prices of, 28, 45, 58. reaſonableneſs of fixing the price of them, 412.
Prynne, *Burton* and *Beſtwick*, account of their ſufferings —— 374
Puffing, on the art of — 59
Punctuality, the importance of it 641
Putrid water, how to make it ſweet at ſea —— — 78
Pynſent, Sir *William*, a declaration concerning his heir —— 604

R.

RAnk, perſons of, a letter from a Chineſe on the mean adulation paid to them in England —— 612
Ranunculi, of the culture of 42
Rawleigh, Sir *Walter*, original letter to a ſon of his — — 38
Reputation, the importance of acquiring and maintaining a good one — 98
Revenge, the prohibition of it juſtifiable by reaſon —— 449
Romiſh Faith, articles of it 403
Rotterdam, Lady M—y W—y M—e's deſcription of —— 29
Rudeneſs, and general familiarity, the ill effects of them —— 753

S.

SAL Armoniac, caution in regard to it 74
Scab and fly in ſheep, remedy for 109
Scipio, his generous behaviour 446
Secrets, againſt betraying them 353
Seged, emperor of Ethiopia, account of ten days paſſed by him 561, 579
Self-deluſion, the various arts of it 386
Semiramis, her epitaph 126
Sexes, of the comparative merit of the two —— —— 235
Shakeſpeare, a paſſage in him explained 427
Sheep, particulars concerning ſhearing them, and their diſtempers — 461
Sleepy Staggers, recipe for 190
Small-pox, a method of treating it 661
Smut in wheat, method of preventing it 76
Ship-money, Mrs. Macauly's account of the trial concerning it — 374
Spital-fields weavers, inſtance of their diſtreſs —— — 170
Spring, a meditation on it 290
Soul, of the pleaſures of it 366
Stars, number of them which may be ſeen with the eye in a clear night 414
Stone and gravel, remedy for 382
Storm-bird, account of — 92

T.

TAupi, the prime miniſter, his ſtory 369
Tartars, bordering on China, their habit deſcribed — — 223
Tax on plate, how negligently collected 232
Thatching, a hint to the farmers concerning it —— — 61
Thoughts, how they are to be regulated 49
Throat, gargle for a ſore one 238
Time, directions how to ſpend it 337
Timothy graſs, inſtructions for cultivating it —— — 397
Tiſſot, Dr. his advice for the preſervation of health 409, 422, 435
Tories, what they are — 87
Trade, young perſons in, advice to 58
Trees, of tranſplanting them in ſummer, 254. account of an extraordinary one, 109. how they may be carried to remote places, 171.
Troops, impropriety of keeping a large number in time of peace — 73
Truth and a Lie, the difference between them —— —— 414
Tub-butter, method of curing it when bad —— —— 509
Turkiſh manners deſcribed, 313. ſpecimen of the Turkiſh verſes, *ibid.*
Turkiſh ladies, their dreſs deſcribed, 313. their manner of intriguing, *ibid.*
Turks, their houſes deſcribed, 419. their theological opinions, 150. Turkiſh camp deſcribed, 188.
Tulips, extravagances of the Dutch in them — —— 278
Turnips, of ſowing them in vale land, 156. benefit of harrowing a foul crop of them, 734.
Turpicula, her character 498

V.

VEſpaſian, his amphitheatre deſcribed 219
Vicious men, arts by which they are reconciled to themſelves —— 657
Vienna, account of the ladies there, 70. curioſities in the emperor's repoſitory there, 174.
Underſtanding, on the right uſe of it in religion —— 507, 517
Voltaire, a remarkable teſtimony of his in behalf of Engliſh liberty 653
Ups and downs —— 424

Wants,

W.

WAnts, artificial, the folly of creating them —— — 402

Waſps and hornets, method of deſtroying them —— — 542

Weſtminſter Journal, extracts from, 875, 22, 55, 69, 101, 147, 183, 204, 232, 268, 283, 293, 312, 323, 488, 533, 570, 611, 626, 664, 685, 706, 759, 827.

Whang, the avaricious miller, his ſtory 242

Wheat, how to prevent its being winter proud, 157. how to ſow it to advantage, 158. an improved way of procuring good crops of it, 666.

Whigs, what they are — 26

Whirler, Jack, his character 33

White *St. John's Wort*, deſcribed 350

Wood, a preparation to preſerve it from catching fire —— 573

Woodville, Eliz. her journal 451

Worms in the body, an infallible recipe for curing them —— 574

Wickliff, John, his life, 765. corruptions of the church of Rome in his time, *ibid.* arrogance and pride of the popes, 766. rapacity of the pope's agents, 778. public tranſactions in Wickliff's time, 779. account of the ſtatute of proviſors, 789. Wickliff's education, 791. his method of ſtudying the ſcriptures, *ibid.* his conteſt with the begging friars, 792. his arguments againſt the tribute paid to the pope, 793. elected divinity profeſſor at Oxford, 805. makes a vigorous attack upon the church of Rome, 807. diſturbance at St. Paul's on his account, 810. the pope ſends five bulls into England againſt him, 819. he tranſlates the bible into Engliſh, 822. his death and character, 826.

Y.

YEllows, in horſes, recipe for 190

Yellow Jaundice, cure for it 254

Z.

ZEal, a total want of it, one characteriſtic of the preſent age — 666

INDEX

To the SELECT PIECES of

POETRY.

A.

ABRA, or the Georgian ſultana, an eclogue —— 159
Accident, the, a paſtoral elegy 79
Advice to friends abroad, 384. with regard to new opinions, *ibid.*
Ants Philoſophy —— 223
Apparition, the univerſal, a fable 591
April morning, deſcription of a fine one 239
Auguſt, the month of, a paſtoral 511
Autumn — — 736

B.

BAboon and poultry, a fable 319
Bears and Bees, a fable 143
Bees, the degenerate, a fable 527
Bee and ſparrow, a fable 719
Black-bird, elegy on one ſhot on Valentine's day —— — 144
Blunder, the farmer's — 239
Brewer's coachman, the 768

C.

CAmelion, the, a fable 736
Cat, on the death of a tabby one 880
Charity, on univerſal — 64
Charity, to — — 640
Cheats apology —— 687
Chriſtian, the, to his departing ſoul 624
Cleanthes, his hymn — 639
Clemency, on the divine — 144
Clown, the contented, a tale 671
Compariſon, the —— 751
Contemplation, an ode 687
Contentment, to her ſuppliants 703
Country life, on —— 256
Country Maid, the —— 112
Countryman and Jupiter, a fable 671
Country-woman, elegy of one on her huſband killed by a cart — 367
Court coquet, and court fribble, characters of —— — 335
Cornwall, elegy written among the ruins of a nobleman's ſeat there — 687
Creation, on the, by a youth, 176. on the ſame —— — 559
Crows, ſtory of the — 608
Cumberland, duke of, verſes on his death 783

D.

DAy, on a fine one —— 624
Death, ode to, by the K. of Pruſſia 735
Death, on the univerſal ſway of it, 32. thoughts on it, 816, 559.
Death's final conqueſt — 431
Ditty, the —— 207
Denmark, a deſcription of winter there 831
Dreams, on —— 191
Dreſs, on —— 368

E.

EMmets, the, a fable — 655
Epigrams —— 384, 591
Eternity, thoughts on — 256
Experiment, the, a tale 175
Extempore verſes, in anſwer to a billet of compliments and excuſes 512

F.

FAir, the, a hint to — 752
Farmer, the frighted, a tale 478
Fakeer, the, a tale —— 671
February, ode to —— 79
Fly and Trout, a fable 384
Flowers, moral reflections on 304
Fly, the — — 783
Folly, ode to —— 591
France to *England*, a card 416
Friendſhip, a definition of it, 47. on the changes of it —— 191
Friendſhip, true, a deſcription of 320
Frog and mouſe, a fable 799
Futurity, againſt ſeeking into it 143

G.

GRumbler, the —— 448

H.

HAy-making and sheep-shearing, Thompson's picturesque description of 383
Happiness, on — 224
Happy life, what things make it 192
Harvest, an elegy written in 528
Human Will, on the freedom of it 592
Hymn —— — 832

I.

JAckall, leopard, and other beasts, a fable 431
January, ode to —— 48
Independence, address to 431
Indian Philosopher, the — 703
Insolvent act, on passing it 448
Innocence joined with beauty on, 416
Integrity, on the security arising from it 224
Judas and the Pope, an epigram 96
Judge, pot of oil, and hog, a tale 160

K.

KIngdom, what constitute the security of one — —. 400
Kitty and Betsy, on the contrast 623
Know thy self — 495

L.

LAdy, friendly advice to a gay young one, 271. to a young one on beauty 768.
Lap dog, ode on a favourite one 96
Lavinia, her affecting story 575
Life, a vision, 63. what things make a happy life, 192.
Lion and other beasts, a fable 272
Looking-glass, meditation for a lady at one — — 159

M.

MAgna Charta, inscription for a column where that was obtained 143
Man, the happy —— 784
Man, cat, dog, and fly, a fable 560
March, an ode —— 143
Marcus Antoninus, a thought from him 176
Mayor, uncommon method of chusing one — —— 176
Melancholy, ode to —— 95
Memento, the important 463
Messiah, a sacred eclogue 815
Mind, on the duty of enlarging it, 430. the charms of it superior to those of the face, 624.
Morning hymn — 495, 767
Monument, the —— 624
Music, ode to ——— 256

O.

OAk and the myrtle, a fable 112
Odes, to January, 48. to February, 79. to winter, 47. to melancholy, 95. on a favourite lap-dog, 96. to music, 256. to hope, 463. to folly, 591. on contemplation, 687. to death, by the K. of Prussia, 735.
Owl, swan, cock, and farmer, &c. a fable — —— 127

P.

PAncras church yard, stanzas there, 623
Paradise Lost, B. 3. verses occasioned by reading it — — 416
Parliament of beasts, a fable 464
Pepper-box and salt-seller, a fable 96
Philosopher, the self taught, a tale 767
Pity, the only happiness 352
Pleasure, a vision —— 31
Pleasures, on —— 463
Poet, verses sent by one to a great man 512
Pope, Mr. his universal prayer 351
Poverty insulted, or the case altered, 47. rewarded, or the case re-altered, 111.
Psalm CXLVII. —— 800
Purse, on an empty one — 448

R.

REaping, a description of 575
Reason and humour, an allegory 800
Reflexions on hearing the bell toll for the death of a friend —— 752
Religion, against persecution for it 448
Resolve, the —— 223
Retirement, on — 624
Rhapsody, a morning one 32
Retired life, on the pleasures of, by a youth — — 559
Ring, on a mourning one 32
Riches the true, or virtue its own reward, a tale — — 240
Riches, on the true use of them 623

S.

SEasons, a hymn to the 303
Scandal, a dialogue against it 128
Simeon, his song paraphrased 703
Silence, an address to — 63
Sililoquy, a devout —— 496
Spell, the —— 543
Spring, a hymn to it — 271
Squabble, the, a pastoral 287
Squire, the cruel, a tale 253
Squire and his cur, a fable 879
Student, the —— 751
Storm at Sea, on one, by a sailor 784
Swallows, the —— 704
Sympathy, on —— 47

Time

Make

The Weekly Amuſement.

Saturday, January 5, 1765.

AS Providence has made the human Soul an active Being, always impatient for Novelty, and ſtruggling for ſomething yet unenjoyed with reſtleſs Deſire and unwearied Progreſſion, the World ſeems to have been eminently adapted to this Diſpoſition of the Mind: It is formed to raiſe new Expectations by conſtant Viciſſitudes, and to obviate Satiety by perpetual Change.

Wherever we turn our Eyes, we find ſomething to revive our Curioſity, and engage our Attention. In the Duſk of the Morning we watch the riſing of the Sun, and ſee the Day diverſify the Clouds, and open new Proſpects in its gradual Advance. After a few Hours, we ſee the Shades lengthen and the Light decline, till the Sky is reſigned to a Multitude of ſhining Orbs different from each other in Magnitude and Splendor. The Earth has a new Appearance as we move upon it; the Woods offer their Shades, and the Fields their Harveſts; the Hill flatters with an extenſive View, and the Valley invites with Shelter, Fragrance and Flowers.

The Poets have numbered among the Felicities of the golden Age, an Exemption from the Change of Seaſons, and a Perpetuity of Spring; but I am not certain that in this State of imaginary Happineſs they have made ſufficient Proviſion for that inſatiable Demand of new Gratifications, which ſeems particularly to characterize the Nature of Man. Our Senſe of Delight is in a great Meaſure comparative, and ariſes at once from the Senſations which we feel, and thoſe which we remember: Thus Eaſe after Torment is Pleaſure for a Time, and we are very agreeably recreated, when the Body, chilled with the Weather, is gradually recovering its natural Tepidity; but the Joy ceaſes when we have forgot the Cold, we muſt fall below Eaſe again, if we deſire to riſe above it, and purchaſe new Felicity by voluntary Pain. It is therefore not unlikely that however the Fancy may be amuſed with the Deſcription of Regions in which no Wind is heard but the gentle Zephyr, & no Scenes are diſplayed, but Vallies enamelled with unfading Flowers, and Woods waving their perennial Verdure, we ſhould ſoon grow weary of Uniformity, find our Thoughts languiſh for Want of other Objects and Employment, call on Heaven for our wonted Round of Seaſons, and think ourſelves liberally recompenſed for the Inconveniencies of Summer and Winter, by new Perceptions of the Calmneſs and Mildneſs of the intermediate Variations.

Every Seaſon has its particular Power of ſtriking the Mind. The Nakedneſs and Aſperity of the wintry World always fills the Beholder with penſive & profound Aſtoniſhment; as the Variety of the Scene is leſſened, its Grandeur is increaſed; and the Mind is ſwelled at once by the mingled Ideas of the preſent and the paſt, of the Beau-

THE

PREFACE.

TO repeat annually the same Thing over again, as is generally done in Publications of this Kind, can afford but little Entertainment to the Reader, whatever

whatever it may do to the Writer. We ſhall therefore only ſay we hope our Readers have been equally entertained and inſtructed by our Work in the laſt Year as in the foregoing: And from the Addition we have made to our firſt Plan, by a propoſed Series of Lives of eminent Perſons in Great Britain and Ireland, from the Time of Wickliff to the preſent Period, and ſome other Circumſtances, we flatter ourſelves the ſucceeding Year will be ſtill more worthy of the Public Approbation.

The Lives we propoſe to give will be executed in ſo full and compleat a Manner, as to form a Work that we think no one who has the leaſt Curioſity, or the leaſt Regard for thoſe Great Men by whom our Country has been raiſed to its preſent Glory, would willingly

ingly be without: For what is more pleaſing than the Peruſal of ſuch Lives: and what can be more proper to ſtir up the Youth in any Family to an uſeful and noble Life, inſtead of giving Way to Trifling, Idleneſs and Vice. There are but few young Perſons but what are ſtirred up to Emulation by the reading of the Lives of Great Perſons; and it is certain that many have become Great Men from the Excitement they have received from hearing or reading what others have done. That nothing may be wanting we ſhall adorn our Lives with the Effigies of the ſeveral Perſons, taken from original Pictures, and engraved on Copper Plates in a maſterly Manner; ſo that upon the whole, the Work will be ſuperior to any Thing of the Kind that has yet been publiſhed.

We

The PREFACE.

We return our Thanks to the Publick for the Encouragement it has hitherto given us, and ſhall continue our utmoſt endeavours to deſerve it.

INDEX

TO THE

WEEKLY AMUSEMENT;

From Saturday, January 5, to Saturday, December 28, 1765.

A.

Abouzaid, the ſon of Morad, his hiſtory —— 162

Abbas, the hermit, his hiſtory, 279, 291

Addreſs of the city of London vindicated —— — 631

Adrianople, account of that city 187

Advantage of knowing ourſelves 366

Adverſity, its good effects 453

Advertiſement, from White-hall 774

Advice of a wife and good man ſhould not be deſpiſed — 362

Age, the preſent equal in knowledge and virtue to any former one, 233. humorous letter on it, 441.

Aged perſons, propoſals for an aſylum for —— 184

Aix la Chapelle, account of an event that happened there —— 262

Alexander the Great, parallel between him and an highwayman 345

All or nothing, a moral tale, 18, 36, 52, 66.

Algezines, their habits deſcribed 254

Andrews, biſhop, anecdote of him 637

Anemones, on the culture of 42

Angling, the number of people who are ſubſiſted by it —— 652

Animal, maternal tenderneſs of one, 204, account of an uncommon one, 437. ſeveral remarkable ones deſcribed, 654.

Animalcule, account of an extraordinary one — —— 699

Antiparos, account of the grotto of, 868

Anxiety univerſal — 673

Appenine, mountains deſcribed 242

Apple trees, a method of curing luxuriant ones —— 574

Arable land, the beſt method of manuring it — — 652

Armourers, character of that ſect 151

Aſem, the man-hater, his ſtory 513

Attachment of Mr. *Almon*, arguments upon it. —— 407

B.

BArley, how to know when it is fit to mow —— — 110

Belgrade village, deſcribed 213

Biography, the advantages and pleaſure of it. —— — 764

Bigotry, arguments againſt it 473

Biſhops, their ſervile attachment to the Court —— — 637

Black Box, a ſtory — 167

Bloſſoms and young fruit, how to preſerve from froſts —— 90

Books, an extraordinary liſt of new ones 652

Bolognian ſtone, account of it 265

Bolognian phoſphorus, how diſcovered 275

Bon Ton, attempt to explain it 206

Bounty on corn, ſhould be limited 185

Bribery, Philip king of Macedon's opinion of it —— 23

Bugs and Worms in wood, a preparation for deſtroying them — 571

Byron, lord, narrative of the duel between him and Mr. Chaworth 387

C.

CAncer, ſcorbutic, remarkable cure of one —— 254

Cantab. letter from a young one in town to his chum at Cambridge 487

Camphire, the extraordinary efficacy of it in maniacal diſorders — 877

Caraxan, his ſtory —— 321

Carrots, benefit of ſowing them for the winter food of cattle — 509

Card-playing, thoughts on it 203

Catacombs of Naples, account of 61

Caterpillars, a method for deſtroying them 270

Catharine, Empreſs of Ruſſia, her hiſtory 676

Cement, for joining alabaſter, marble, &c. —— — 398

Charlemount, earl of, his generous direction about letting his eſtates 184

Charles II. humorous anecdote of him 157

Chearfulneſs of temper recommended, 226. the advantages of it, 689.

Characters, on the propenſity to aſſume falſe ones —— 145

Cheſterfield, earl of, a letter from him to his ſon, 696. a ſaying of his about the biſhops, 637.

Chineſe

H.

HAy - making and ſheep - ſhearing, Thompſon's picturesque deſcription of 383
Happineſs, on — 224
Happy life, what things make it 192
Harveſt, an elegy written in 528
Human Will, on the freedom of it 592
Hymn —— — 832

I.

JAckall, leopard, and other beaſts, a fable 431
January, ode to —— 48
Independence, addreſs to 431
Indian Philoſopher, the — 703
Inſolvent act, on paſſing it 448
Innocence joined with beauty on, 416
Integrity, on the ſecurity ariſing from it 224
Judas and the Pope, an epigram 96
Judge, pot of oil, and hog, a tale 160

K.

KIngdom, what conſtitute the ſecurity of one — —. 400
Kitty and Betſy, on the contraſt 623
Know thy ſelf — 495

L.

LAdy, friendly advice to a gay young one, 271. to a young one on beauty 768.
Lap dog, ode on a favourite one 96
Lavinia, her affecting ſtory 575
Life, a viſion, 63. what things make a happy life, 192.
Lion and other beaſts, a fable 272
Looking-glaſs, meditation for a lady at one — — 159

M.

Magna Charta, inſcription for a column where that was obtained 143
Man, the happy —— 784
Man, cat, dog, and fly, a fable 560
March, an ode —— 143
Marcus Antoninus, a thought from him 176
Mayor, uncommon method of chuſing one — —— 176
Melancholy, ode to —— 95
Memento, the important 463
Meſſiah, a ſacred eclogue 815
Mind, on the duty of enlarging it, 430. the charms of it ſuperior to thoſe of the face, 624.
Morning hymn — 495, 767
Monument, the —— 624
Muſic, ode to —— 256

O.

OAk and the myrtle, a fable 112
Odes, to January, 48. to February, 79. to winter, 47. to melancholy, 95. on a favourite lap-dog, 96. to muſic, 256. to hope, 463. to folly, 591. on contemplation, 687. to death, by the K. of Pruſſia, 735.
Owl, ſwan, cock, and farmer, &c. a fable — —— 127

P.

Pancras church yard, ſtanzas there, 623
Paradiſe Loſt, B. 3. verſes occaſioned by reading it — — 416
Parliament of beaſts, a fable 464
Pepper - box and ſalt - ſeller, a fable 96
Philoſopher, the ſelf taught, a tale 767
Pity, the only happineſs 352
Pleaſure, a viſion —— 31
Pleaſures, on —— 463
Poet, verſes ſent by one to a great man 512
Pope, Mr. his univerſal prayer 351
Poverty inſulted, or the caſe altered, 47. rewarded, or the caſe re-altered, 111.
Pſalm CXLVII. —— 800
Purſe, on an empty one — 448

R.

REaping, a deſcription of 575
Reaſon and humour, an allegory 800
Reflexions on hearing the bell toll for the death of a friend —— 752
Religion, againſt perſecution for it 448
Reſolve, the —— 223
Retirement, on — 624
Rhapſody, a morning one 32
Retired life, on the pleaſures of, by a youth — — 559
Ring, on a mourning one 32
Riches the true, or virtue its own reward, a tale — — 240
Riches, on the true uſe of them 623

S.

SEaſons, a hymn to the 303
Scandal, a dialogue againſt it 128
Simeon, his ſong paraphraſed 703
Silence, an addreſs to — 63
Sililoquy, a devout —— 496
Spell, the —— 543
Spring, a hymn to it — 271
Squabble, the, a paſtoral 287
Squire, the cruel, a tale 253
Squire and his cur, a fable 879
Student, the —— 751
Storm at Sea, on one, by a ſailor 784
Swallows, the —— 704
Sympathy, on —— 47

Time